

Message Text

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44

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 652

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DEPARTMENT PASS ALL LATIN AMERICAN POSTS

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, MX

SUBJECT: ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS: ORIT ISSUE RESOLVED IN PRE-
CONGRESS MEETINGS

REF MEXICO 9083

SUMMARY: ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION OF ORIT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND ICFTU'S
SPECIAL STUDY GROUP ON LATIN AMERICA WHICH CALLED FOR
HOLDING EXTRAORDINARY ORIT CONGRESS IN 1976 TO CONSIDER
RESTRUCTURING ORIT AND REVAMPING ITS CONSTITUTION. DECISION
FOLLOWED HEATED DEBATE IN WHICH DANISH LO
LEADER THOMAS NIELSEN, SPEAKING ON BEHALF NORDIC TRADE
UNION COUNCIL, URGED CREATION NEW LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL
ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE AFL-CIO AND WARNED SIX
NORDIC NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS WOULD
DISAFFILIATE FROM ICFTU IF IT FAILED ACT ACCORDINGLY.
LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DENOUNCED
NIELSEN AND STATE THEY WOULD NOT TOLERATE EUROPEAN
INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND EMPHATICALLY
PROCLAIMED THAT AFL-CIO WOULD REMAIN MEMBER OF ORIT
AND OF ANY NEW ENTITY WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM EXTRAORDINARY
ORIT CONGRESS NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. AT OCTOBER 15, 1975 MEETING ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
VOTED UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION OF ICFTU'S
SPECIAL STUDY GROUP ON LATIN AMERICA THAT CONTROVERSIAL
QUESTION OF RESTRUCTURING ORIT BE RESOLVED AT EXTRAORDINARY
ORIT CONGRESS TO BE HELD MAY 1976, PROBABLY IN CARACAS. ACTION
CAME ON HEELS OF PROLONGED AND HEATED DEBATE IN WHICH
DANISH LO LEADER THOMAS NIELSEN URGED THAT ICFTU ASSIST
LATIN AMERICANS BY BREAKING THEIR TIES WITH AFL-CIO AND
CONSTRUCT NEW ORGANIZATION, FREE OF U.S. DOMINATION WHICH
WOULD BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS OF LATIN
AMERICAN WORKERS. NIELSEN FURTHER STATE AFL-CIO
MEMBERSHIP IN ORIT WAS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH AMERICANS'
POSITION TO REMAIN DISAFFILIATED FROM ICFTU. NIELSEN
WARNED THAT SIX NORDIC TRADE UNION CENTERS WERE PRE-
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PARED TO DISAFFILIATE FROM ICFTU IF IT FAILED TAKE
INITIATIVE IN DISBANDING ORIT AND CREATING NEW REGIONAL
ORGANIZATION.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR ICFTU AND ORIT SOURCES, NIELSEN'S
STATEMENT PRECIPITATED EMOTIONAL REACTION FROM LATIN
AMERICAN MEMBERS ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHO
DENOUNCED NIELSEN "FOR THIS UNWARRANTED AND UNACCEPTABLE

EUROPEAN INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS." TULIO CUEVAS (UTC - COLOMBIA) AND RAFAEL CAMACHO (CTM - MEXICO) LED ATTACK ON NIELSEN WITH CUEVAS ASSERTING THAT LATIN AMERICANS WOULD NEVER PRESUME TO DICTATE TO EUROPEANS WHETHER IT BE IN RELATION TO THEIR POLICY ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS OR INTERNAL POLITICAL MATTERS. HE STATED LATIN AMERICANS ARE CAPABLE OF RESOLVING THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND IN PARTICULAR, IN DETERMINING NATURE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH AFL-CIO. HE DESCRIBED NIELSEN'S POSITION AS ONE WHICH WOULD SUGGEST THAT LATIN AMERICANS SWAP "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" FOR EUROPEANS IMPERIALISM NEITHER OF WHICH WILL BE TOLERATED."

3. CUEVAS AND CAMACHO WERE JOINED BY MALAVE (CTV - VENEZUELA) AND ORIT GENERAL SECRETARY ETCHEVERRY IN DEFENDING RIGHT OF AFL-CIO TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN ANY INTER-AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION AND IN SERVING NOTICE ON EUROPEANS THAT AFL-CIO WILL REMAIN MEMBER OF ORIT OR RESTRUCTURED ORGANIZATION SHOULD ORIT EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS DECIDE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION. MALAVE WAS SOMEWHAT MORE CIRCUMSPECT IN HIS CRITICISM OF NIELSEN AND EUROPEANS BUT LEFT NO DOUBT THAT CTV IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO COLOMBIAN AND MEXICAN POSITIONS VIS-A-VIS AFL-CIO.

4. STUNNED BY STINGING REBUFF FROM LATIN AMERICANS, NIELSEN SAID IT WAS APPARENT NORDICS DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND NORDICS WOULD THEREFORE VOTE IN FAVOR OF RECOMMENDATION THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS BE HELD. NIELSEN ADDED, HOWEVER, THIS WOULD BE SUBJECT OF FUTURE DISCUSSIONS IN NORDIC TRADE UNION FEDERATION AND INSISTED ACTION OF ANY ICFTU REGIONAL ORGANIZATION WAS PROPERLY CONCERN OF ALL ICFTU AFFILIATES. NIELSEN SAID NORDICS WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EQUIVOCAL ORIT POSITION IN DEFENSE OF TRADE UNION AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILEAN WORKERS.

5 COMMENT: RESULTS OF ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SHOULD BE PLEASING TO AFL-CIO, WHICH PLAYED INDIRECT ROLE IN ITS ORCHESTRATION OF RECENT MEETING WITH MEXICAN, COLOMBIAN, AND VENEZUELAN LEADERS. IT WAS MEXICAN CTM LEADER VELEZQUEZ AT COT. 1975 ORIT EXEC COUNCIL MEETING WHO SUGGESTED IDEA OF HOLDING EXTRAORDINARY ORIT CONGRESS WHICH HAS EFFECTIVELY REMOVED ORIT ISSUE FROM ICFTU CONGRESS AND PLACED IT IN HANDS OF LATIN AMERICANS. NEVERTHELESS, TONE AND CHARACTER OF LATIN AMERICAN STATEMENTS BEFORE ICFTU EXEC COMMITTEE CLEARLY INDICATE THAT LATIN AMERICANS ARE SEEKING NEW KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH AFL-CIO. THIS COUPLED

WITH LATIN AMERICANS DESIRE BRING ARGENTINES,
WHO HAVE REFUSED TO JOIN ORIT AS IT IS PRESENTLY
CONSTITUTED, INTO FOLD, SUGGEST SOME DEGERRE OF
RESTRUCTURING AT 1976 EXTRAORDINARY ORIT CONGRESS
IS ALMOST INEVITABLE. MEXICAN PRES ECHEVERRIA WILL
OFFICIALLY INAUGURATE ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS ON COT. 19.

BRANDN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL LATIN AMERICAN POSTS.

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